Regional news

Seminar for presentation of results from the pilot project in Småland_SE

The Linnaeus University and Energikontor Sydost organized a seminar on the 20th November in Växjö, Småland. It has been held once a year since 1999 and is traditionally called "The bioenergy day of Växjö".

One purpose of this year's meeting was to promote the SIMWOOD-project and another to report of the results from the regional pilot project.

The meeting was attended by 75 people, covering various parts of the value chain for bioenergy, e.g., forest owners, practitioners in the forests, forest fuel sellers and purchasers, district heating companies, officials and regional decision makers.

Professor Thomas Thörnqvist gave a lecture about the results from the pilot project concerning techniques for increased and more efficient extraction of forest residues from clear cutting areas.

PhD-students gave presentations about other close related subjects, e.g., factors of the fuel which affect the combustion process.

The event also included a panel discussion, with participants from various parts of the bioenergy chain, and led by the Linnaeus University.

The bioenergy day of Växjö was appreciated by the different categories attending the meeting. It has contributed to strengthening the cooperation between the University, related companies and the official actors in the region – a good example of Triple Helix cooperation in an important context.

The event was financed by the SIMWOOD project and provided important input for the ongoing work in the project, which will from now on focus on disseminating the results of the focus studies and pilot project.

Göran Gustavsson and Thomas Thörnqvist
Photos: Ulrika Lindh

Workshop on forest operations

FCBA hosted a one day workshop on forest operations in mountain and steep terrain areas on November 19 in Grenoble.

More than 90 local and national stakeholders participated and contributed to the success of the meeting.

Morning presentations on logging technics, mountain-specific logistics and collaborative innovation contributed to disseminating state of the art knowledge to forest practitioners.

Photos: Thomas Carrette

Experiences from diverse contexts (e.g., the French Alps, Italy, and Massif Central where SIMWOOD's pilot project is being implemented in Auvergne) and different stakeholder perspectives were shared and discussed during the afternoon roundtable.

Workshop on FlorNExT

FlorNExT was launched in a workshop organized by the IPB SIMWOOD team on November 12, 2015, at the School of Agriculture of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, in Bragança, Portugal.

The workshop started with a short welcome message and introduction to SIMWOOD by João Azevedo, followed by an introduction to forest modeling by Luis Nunes.

Next, Fernando Pérez-Rodrigues presented **FlorNExT** in detail describing the overall functioning of the tool, structure and options of the interface help resources, models used to estimate growth and tree distribution and the input parameters and output variables.

Examples of applications in forest management with FlorNExT were also provided and followed by participants from their mobile devices.

Photo: João Azevedo

There were 25 participants in the workshop coming from the academic community, conservation and development associations, the Forest Service and forest consultants.

The event received media coverage which will further increase the impact of the workshop and of **FlorNExT**.

The workshop met most of its objectives, namely a strong participation from the stakeholders' side and a full understanding of the usefulness of **FlorNExT** for forest planning and management.

More about FlorNext

FlorNExT is an application for modeling growth and yield for maritime pine (Pinus pinaster) and Pyrenean oak (Quercus pyrenaica) stands in the Nordeste region of Portugal, as well as for defining thinning plans and their effects on stand growth and yield.

Users of the application can estimate stand growth and yield and tree size distribution over time in a very simple way based on variables easily measured in the field.

They can also plan thinning operations from intensity and other simples parameters obtaining estimates of the volume to extract and the distribution of trees per size class (to extract and to remain in the stand).

The application is now fully available online at http://flornext.esa.ipb.pt/ .